

Message Text

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ACTION DLOS-09

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 AGR-01 ACDA-12 AID-05
CEA-01 CEQ-01 CG-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00
DOTE-00 EB-08 EPA-01 SOE-02 DOE-15 FMC-01 TRSE-00
H-01 INR-10 INT-05 JUSE-00 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05
NSF-01 OES-09 OMB-01 PA-01 PM-05 SP-02 SS-15
ICA-11 AF-10 ARA-10 EA-10 NEA-10 OIC-02 /193 W
-----086656 141542Z /42

R 140900Z AUG 78
FM AMEMBASSY ATHENS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7220
INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA
AMEMBASSY NICOSIA
USMISSION USNATO
USMISSION USUN NE YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L ATHENS 7007

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PLOS, GR
SUBJ: LOS: RESUMED SEVENTH SESSION ON THE CONTINENTAL SHELF

REF: STATE 188840

1. WE HAVE NOW DISCUSSED THISSUBJECT WITH AMBASSADOR
NOMICOS, THE MFA'S DIRECTOR FOR INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS
AND CONFERENCES, AND MEMBERS OF HIS STAFF AND OF THE
MFA'S LEGAL DEPARTMENT. USING THE TALKING POINTS CONTAINED
IN REFTEL, WE STRESSED THE VALUE WE PLACE ON A PRODUCTIVE
CONCLUSION OF THE SEVENTH SESSION AND THAT WE VIEW THE
"IRISH FORMULA" AS A REALISTIC BASIS FOR REACHING A
CONSENSUS SOLUTION TO THE PROBLEM OF DEFINING THE OUTER
LIMIT OF THE CONTINENTAL SHELF WHERE IT EXTENDS BEYOND
200 MILES. WE LEFT A COPY OF THE UNCLASSIFIED TALKING
POINTS.

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2. THE INITIAL GREEK REACTION WAS THAT THE DEFINITION
OF THE OUTER LIMIT OF THE SHELF WAS NOT OF IMMEDIATE
CONCERN TO THE GOG IN VIEW OF THE COUNTRY'S GEOGRAPHY.
HOWEVER, THEY GENERALLY PREFERRED THE "PRECISION OF
A NUMERICAL DEFINITION" TO "GEOLOGICAL CRITERIA" IN
DEFINING THE OUTER LIMIT OF THE SHELF. TO THE EXTENT
THAT THE "IRISH FORMULA" CONTRAVENED THAT PRINCIPLE,

THE GREEKS COULD NOT SUPPORT IT CONCEPTUALLY. AS AN INITIAL BASIS FOR DISCUSSIONS, HOWEVER, THE PROPOSAL SEEMED WORTH PURSUING AND, OUR INTERLOCUTORS SAID, US VIEWS ON THE MATTER WOULD BE CAREFULLY CONSIDERED AND CONVEYED TO THE GREEK DELEGATES TO THE RESUMED SEVENTH SESSION. THE GENERAL COMMENT WAS MADE THAT THE GREEK GOVERNMENT HAD ALSO BEEN ENCOURAGED BY THE COURSE OF THE MARCH-MAY DISCUSSIONS AT GENEVA, PARTICULARLY IN VIEW OF TALK ABOUT THE PROBABLE "FAILURE" OF THE SEVENTH SESSION BEFORE IT HAD CONVENED.

3. AT NEW YORK, AMBASSADOR-AT-LARGE AND FORMER DEPUTY FOREIGN MINISTER) STAVROPOULOS WILL AGAIN BE THE HEAD OF THE GREEK DELEGATION, WITH AMBASSADOR TOULoupAS AS HIS DEPUTY. OTHER DELEGATION MEMBERS WILL INCLUDE PROFESSOR KRISPIS, RETIRED ADMIRAL KORNIALIS (ADVISER), ADMIRAL MITSAKOS OF THE NAVAL STAFF ACCOMPANIED BY AN OFFICER FROM THE GREEK HYDROGRAPHIC SERVICE AND A NAVY LEGAL STAFF OFFICER, A REPRESENTATIVE FROM THE MERCHANT MARINE MINISTRY, AND TWO ADDITIONAL FOREIGN MINISTRY REPRESENTATIVES, MR.HALKIOPOULOS FROM THE LEGAL ADVISOR'S OFFICE (WHO PARTICIPTED IN OUR MEETING) AND JOHN MOURIKIS.
MCCLOSKEY

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: CONTINENTAL SHELF
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 14 aug 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978ATHENS07007
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780331-1214
Format: TEL
From: ATHENS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780865/aaaaccr.tel
Line Count: 86
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 8c168663-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION DLOS
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 78 STATE 188840
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 20 may 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1742558
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: LOS: RESUMED SEVENTH SESSION ON THE CONTINENTAL SHELF
TAGS: PLOS, GR
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/8c168663-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014